

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04712 080719Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
-----080724Z 110401 /17

O R 080645Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4343

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4712

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS CH

SUBJ: PRC REPORTEDLY SEIZES ROK FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN

REF: A. COMUS KOREA 051110Z JUN 77, (B) SEOUL 4812 (240607Z
JUN 76)

SUMMARY: FIVE PRC FISHING BOATS REPORTEDLY SEIZED THE CAPTAIN
OF AN ROK FISHING BOAT IN THE EAST CHINA SEA JUNE 5 AND FIRED
ON THE ROK BOAT, WOUNDING ONE CREWMAN, WHEN IT TURNED TO
PURSUE. ROKG HAS REQUESTED U.S. "GOOD OFFICES" TO ASCERTAIN
FACTS, FACILITATE RELEASE OF CAPTAIN. END SUMMARY

1. MOFA EAST ASIA DIVISION II CHIEF KANG CHONG WAN CALLED
EMBOFF TO FOREIGN MINISTRY JUNE 7 TO ADVISE THAT ROK FISHING
BOAT CAPTAIN WAS REPORTEDLY SEIZED BY FIVE PRC FISHING BOATS
ON THE HIGH SEAS 120 MILES SW OF SO HUK SAN ISLAND AT ABOUT
7 A.M. JUNE 5. KANG SAID ROK POLICE VESSEL WAS INVESTIGATING
AND ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING FROM THE PRC WHAT
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THE FACTS WERE REGARDING THE INCIDENT AND IN EXPEDITING THE
CAPTAIN'S RELEASE THROUGH USG "GOOD OFFICES." (THE ROKG HAS
ATTEMPTED TO USE BRITISH GOOD OFFICES FOR RESOLVING SIMILAR
INCIDENTS IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO THE UK EMBASSY, THE LAST TIME
THE U.K. ATTEMPTED TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY, THE PRC EXPRESSED
ITS DISPLEASURE AT THE UK PLAYING THIS ROLE, AND HMG TOLD THE
ROKG THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN

THE FUTURE.)

2. KANG SAID THAT ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE ROK MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE ROK POLICE BASED ON A RADIO REPORT FROM THE ROK VESSEL SS TAE SONG 7, THE 40.73 TON ROK FISHING BOAT UN P'A 3 WAS SET UPON BY FIVE PRC FISHING BOATS IN THE EAST CHINA SEA 120 MILES SW OF SO HUK SAN ISLAND. THE CAPTAIN CHUN PYON HWAN (35), WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROK FISHING BOAT BY THE PRC FISHERMEN, WHO THEN PROCEEDED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CHINESE MAINLAND. THE ROK BOAT WITH SEVEN CREWMEN ON BOARD PURSUED THE CHINESE BOATS, WHICH THEN TURNED AND FIRED ON THE ROK BOAT WITH A RIFLE. ONE ROK CREWMAN WAS COUNDED IN THE LEG. THERE WERE TWO TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE UN P'A3. THE SECOND TRANSMISSION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN SIX AND EIGHT P.M., AND STOPPED JUST AFTER THE FIRING WAS REPORTED. KANG THOUGHT THE ROK BOAT HAD POSSIBLY EITHER BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE PRC, OR WAS MAKING ITS WAY AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT.

3. KANG SAID THAT THE ROKG WOULD APPRECIATE USG ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING FROM THE PRC GOVERNMENT THE FACTS REGARDING THE INCIDENT AND THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE USG IN FACILITATING THE RELEASE OF THE ROK FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN IF HE WAS IN FACT IN PRC CUSTODY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT EMBASSY WOULD REPORT INCIDENT TO DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH ROKG REQUEST FOR GOOD OFFICES, BUT CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER U.S. INTERVENTION COULD PRODUCE ANY MEANINGFUL RESPONSE FROM PRC.

4. THIS INCIDENT IS SIMILAR TO ONE THAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME IN WHICH TWO ROK FISHING BOATS WERE SEIZED BY PRC
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AND RELEASED AFTER BEING DETAINED FOR A FEW DAYS. DIFFERENCE IN THIS CASE IS THAT ROK FISHING BOT CAPTAIN WILL HAVE NO WAY TO RETURN ON HIS OWN SINCE HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIS BOAT. THUS PRC WILL HAVE EITHER HAVE TO TURN HIM LOOSE IN SOME NEUTRAL LOCATION LIKE HONG KONG, TURN HIM OVER TO SOME THIRD PARTY, GIVE HIM DIRECTLY TO ROK OR KEEP HIM.

5. EMBASSY AND UNC ARE CONTINUING TO MONITOR ROK RESPONSE. THUS FAR ROK SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING PROVOCATIVE ACTION, AND WE WILL ENCOURAGE THIS TENDENCY AS APPROPRIATE.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO ROKG REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL04712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770678/aaaacqch.tel
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